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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 12 noon.

## Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

(Legislative day of Monday, August 31, 1998)

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we fall on the knees of our hearts. You are our righteous, holy Father. You have given us Your absolutes in the Ten Commandments. Without these absolutes, the fiber of our culture becomes torn and loses its strength. The greatness of our Nation is rooted in faith and obedience to Your sovereignty. Yet, each generation has had to make its own commitment to You. Renewing our dedication to You is a daily discipline we dare not neglect.

Bless the Senators and all of us who are privileged to work with them with an acute awareness of Your evaluation of all that we say and do. We report to You. That is why we need Your grace when we miss the mark and Your courage to make each day a new beginning. Most of all, we want to be faithful to You and to Your values. You do not change; You are our solid Anchor in the storms of life. Thank You for giving us the power to change and to be all You meant us to be. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, last week, the Senate made good progress, and I want to express my appreciation for the cooperation. We did pass the military construction appropriations conference report, the first appropriations conference report of the year. We also completed action on two other appropriations bills, the foreign operations appropriations bill and the Treasury-Postal Service. In addition to that, we completed action on the Texas Compact legislation and got started on debate on bankruptcy reform. So I think we made good use of our time. There were also some very interesting hearings that occurred last week. I hope we can continue that pace this week.

We will have a period of morning business until 12:30 today. Following morning business, the Senate will recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly party caucuses to meet. When we reconvene after the party caucuses, it is my intention for the Senate to begin consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. That will be the 11th appropriations bill to be considered for the year, leaving only D.C. appropriations and the Labor, HHS and Education ap-

propriations bill. We have not quite a month, but we only have the three remaining bills to get done. With a little cooperation, we can complete them. Hopefully, we will begin to see two or three conference reports cleared each week for the balance of this month.

Members are encouraged to come to the floor and offer amendments if they have amendments on the Interior appropriations bill so that we can have debate and votes and make substantial progress on it. We would expect to have rollcall votes this afternoon and into the evening, perhaps, on the Interior bill amendments or any legislative or executive items that may be cleared.

Also, as a reminder to all Members, there will be two cloture votes on Wednesday. The first will be on national missile defense. We voted on this a few months ago. Cloture failed by just one vote. I believe, in view of what has been happening around the world—the uncertainty in Russia, the actions by North Korea, and the problem in Iraq—for us not to have a national missile defense, to not have a plan, to not have commitment, is indefensible. I would not want to be on record as not supporting this. The American people expect it of us. If we don't act now, the year 2010 will come and we still will not have a missile defense. With a lot of dangerous people, chances of rogue or accidental launch is there. We should not take it for granted.

After we vote on cloture and hopefully complete action on the national missile defense bill, we will then turn

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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